

Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Application

Submitted on	5 February 2025, 10:51PM
Receipt number	54
Related form version	10

I am interested in serving on the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. By checking this box I am affirming that I understand this appointment will be a 2-3 year commitment.	Yes, I understand
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I understand that this document will be a public record and any information I provide could be subject to release upon request.	Yes, I understand
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Date of application	02/05/2025
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Contact Information

Full name	Nadia Jean-Jacques
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Phonetic pronunciation	Nadia
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Gender	Female
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Pronouns	Nadia
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Email address	jjnadia@haconet.org
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Phone number	347-678-3686
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Indicate home, work, mobile for primary number	Mobile
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Secondary phone number	
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Indicate home, work, mobile for secondary number	
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If you have a social media presence (Instagram, Facebook, X, Tiktok, LinkedIn, etc.) please share the best way to find you	Nadia.jj17
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Residential street address	1717 WARD ROAD
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City	COLUMBUS
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Zip code	43224
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How many years have you lived in the City of Columbus?	23
What district of the City of Columbus do you live in? (1-9 or outside of city limits)	1-9
Age	46-55

Personal Information

Country of origin (or country of origin of your parents, if applicable)	Haiti
How long have you lived in the US? (date of arrival)	
What immigrant group or groups do you represent?	Haitian
What languages do you speak and rate your fluency in each (basic, conversational, fluent, or proficient)	Fluent in English, French and Haitian Creole
Do you identify as one of the following: Immigrant (a person who has come to a country that is not their own in order to live there permanently), Refugee (a person who has come to a country that is not their own to avoid persecution in their country of origin), First-Generation (children of foreign-born parents)	Yes
Ethnicity and race (please check all that apply)	Black (Caribbean, South American, African, etc.)
Occupation (if retired, please share former occupation)	Haitian Creole interpreter
Do you identify with any of the following affinity groups?	Not applicable

Questionnaire

Why are you interested in serving on this commission? (maximum 250 words)	<p>I am interested in serving on this commission to be a voice for the voiceless, particularly for the Haitian community living in Columbus. As an advocate for immigrant and refugee affairs, I believe representation is essential in addressing the unique challenges faced by these communities. Many immigrants struggle with language barriers, cultural adjustments, and access to essential resources, and I want to help bridge those gaps by ensuring their concerns are heard and addressed.</p> <p>My goal is to contribute to meaningful policy discussions and initiatives that promote inclusion, support economic opportunities, and improve the overall well-being of immigrants and refugees. By serving on this commission, I hope to not only uplift the Haitian community but also collaborate with others to create a more welcoming and equitable environment for all. My passion for community engagement, combined with my understanding of the immigrant experience, drives me to take on this role with dedication and purpose.</p>
What do you hope the commission will accomplish in the short term and long term? (maximum 250 words)	<p>In the short term, I hope the commission will work to increase awareness and accessibility to resources for immigrants and refugees in Columbus. Many individuals face challenges such as language barriers, housing instability, and difficulties navigating legal and employment systems. Establishing stronger support networks, improving outreach efforts, and fostering connections with local organizations can create immediate relief</p>

for those in need.

In the long term, I envision the commission advocating for policies that promote inclusivity, economic mobility, and equal opportunities for immigrant and refugee communities. This could include initiatives that improve access to education, healthcare, and workforce development programs. By fostering cultural understanding and representation, the commission can also help bridge gaps between communities and ensure that immigrants feel valued and empowered in their new home. Ultimately, I hope the commission plays a key role in making Columbus a more welcoming and supportive city for all.

Please describe and share relevant activities and accomplishments that relate to the community that you represent (maximum 250 words)

As a member of the Haitian community, I have seen firsthand the resilience and challenges that many immigrants face. I have been actively engaged in connecting individuals to helpful resources, whether it's assisting with translation, providing information about local services, or simply being a support system for those in need.

I am passionate about creating spaces where immigrants feel heard and represented. Whether through community events, outreach efforts, or informal advocacy, I strive to uplift and support those around me. While my involvement may not always be formal, my commitment to serving my community is unwavering. By joining this commission, I hope to further these efforts in a more impactful way, ensuring that the voices of Haitian immigrants and other marginalized groups are included in discussions that shape policies and programs.

List any experience that would assist you in serving on this commission (maximum 250 words)

I have firsthand experience working with immigrant communities through my role as an ESL instructor, where I help new immigrants develop their English skills to better integrate into society. Teaching ESL has allowed me to connect with individuals from diverse backgrounds, understand their challenges, and provide them with the language tools necessary for daily life, employment, and community engagement.

Beyond education, I actively assist immigrants by linking them with essential community services, including healthcare, housing, and legal resources. I strive to ensure that they have access to the support they need to navigate their new environment with confidence. Through this work, I have seen the barriers that many immigrants face and have made it a priority to advocate for their needs while fostering a welcoming and inclusive community.

Serving on this commission would allow me to expand my efforts by contributing to policy discussions, strengthening outreach initiatives, and amplifying the voices of those who are often unheard. My experience in education and community support, combined with my deep commitment to immigrant rights, makes me well-equipped to serve and make a meaningful impact.

Are you related to any elected City official or city staff member? If yes, please explain.

No

Do you or any of your family members work for or serve on the board of directors of any organization which has contracted with or applied for funding from the City of Columbus? Do you anticipate any involvement of this kind in the future? If yes, please describe the relationship.

No

Please indicate any activities you are involved with that may present a conflict of interest with the commission applying for.

None

References

Reference #1	Louis Dumay
Relation #1	Community reference
Phone number #1	614-677-5168
Email #1	bacha7@gmail.com
Reference #2	Melissa Miller
Relation #2	Professional
Phone number #2	614-961-7287
Email #2	mmiller@cris-ohio.org
By filling out the reference section, I hereby authorize the City of Columbus to conduct a reference check by contacting the individuals listed above. As a reminder, this document is subject to public records requests.	
Yes	

Resume & Letters of Reference

Optional: Please attach your resume and any letters of reference here. If you plan on mailing this form please remember to attach a copy of your resume and any letters of reference.

[Nadia JJ 2024 res.pdf](#)